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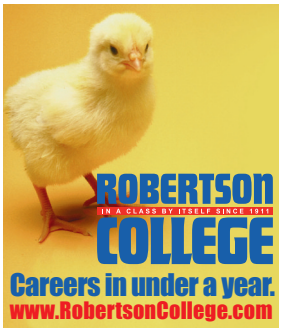

Campaign raises thousands for cancer fight

FUNDRAISERS Beattie Homes and the Calgary Hitmen have teamed up in the battle against breast cancer with huge success.

The Beattie Homes Hockey Mums Fight Breast Cancer campaign, which collected money from an online auction for a Hitmen game-worn jersey, a skate-a-thon, a head shave and the sale of pink teddy bears, along with Booster Club, and Fan Attic Merchandise sales, garnered $22,151.20 for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

"This is the first year of this major campaign and with tremendous results," says Mike Moore, the team's director of business operations.

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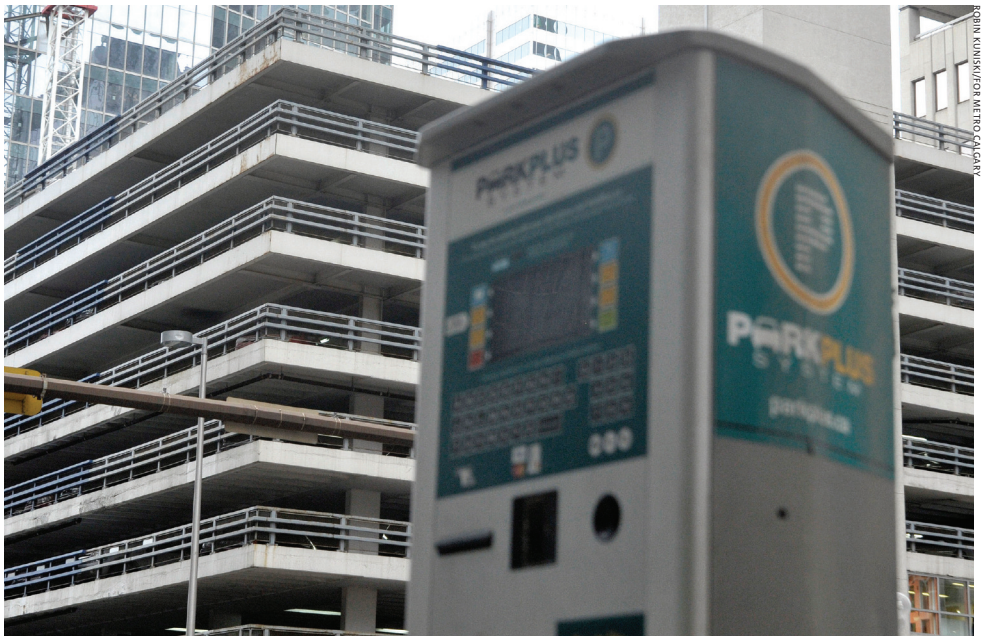

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

More ParkPlus machines are on the way after aldermen gave the green light to their use at some city-run lots and parkades. It was part of council's approval of the Calgary Parking Authority budget yesterday.

ParkPlus to expand

Council also OK's delinquent fine hikes as part of CPA budget

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Delinquent fine hikes, reduced impound lot hours and ParkPlus systems installed into city-run parkades will greet Calgary motorists this year.

All but two aldermen approved the Calgary Parking Authority's operating budget for the next two years yesterday, including a list of changes to save $1.1 million over the next two years, but Ald. Ray Jones is not happy with those alterations.

> **"We seem to be nickel and diming people to death."**
> Ald. Ray Jones

"There are certain aspects of the parking authority I don't seem to get along with, and it was easier to vote against it than for it and try to nitpick things out of it," he said.

Jones dislikes the ParkPlus system and is frustrated with the case of a Calgary man who received a ticket "while dropping his wife off at the side of the road for ten seconds" last month.

"We seem to be nickel and diming people to death, and it's just something that rubbed me the wrong way."

Jones said he believes parking manager Dale Fraser, who wasn't made available for interviews, should have been at the meeting to address concerns.

"We should be able to ask questions instead of just being presented a budget. I've had a number of questions over time ... but they don't get answered."

Resident Brian Whiteworth said he believes the expansion into parkades is just more of a "cash cow."

"I believe that there isn't a parkade downtown that hasn't paid for itself 10 times over, so it looks like just a reason to solicit more money than needed for upkeep," he said.

Effective immediately, Calgarians will also see increased fines for unpaid tickets after 30 days, as well as for illegal parking in handicapped spaces. The other changes will come into effect throughout the year, according to CPA spokesperson Shelley Trigg.

Airport tunnel put on hold

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

DEVELOPMENT It's on to the much less desirable Plan B for the airport tunnel.

There will be no airport tunnel for the city — not until at least 2015, Ward 3 Ald. Jim Stevenson said after the airport authority agreed to put $10.5 million towards a bypass road and keep space on either side of the runway for future construction.

"It's very disappointing but I don't know what else to do ... I've pretty much used everything in my bag of arsenal and there is nothing else I can do," the embattled alderman said.

"I think it's too bad we have let the taxpayers down by not planning and just reacting to the growth. And now it's going to cost a lot more money this way."

But success, Stevenson added, lies within the 25-km and 30-km space on each side of the new runway the airport authority pledged to allow for the potential tunnel to be built afterwards.

"I don't know if I will still be around when that happens," Stevenson said.

Barlow Trail is scheduled to be shut down by April 2011.

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News in brief

LANG HONOURED Herald journalist Michelle Lang was honoured yesterday at YWCA during a luncheon, which also paid acknowledgement to female leaders in Calgary. Lang was killed while in Afghanistan along with four Canadian soldiers when she was on assignment in Kandahar City.

METRO CALGARY

Following news stories on Twitter...

CalgaryTweets

@Crackmacs 6 firetrucks at 6AVE & 7ST SW. Hoses are on the ground. Firemen went into a building. They also turned on a spotlight briefly. Video soon.

@AnnaliseKlingbe I may be the only person in #yyc excited about snow. Hoping for a few more good snowshoes and skis before spring!

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HAWCS not dangerous: Cops

No 'near misses' for police chopper, industry leaders say

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

There was never any risk or danger when HAWCS helicopters reportedly flew too close to other aircraft several times in the past four years, according to Calgary police.

Police spokesperson Kevin Brookwell defended the actions of the police aircraft yesterday after CBC news reported Transport Canada files state the helicopter has flown too close to other aircraft at least 11 times in the past four years.

"I want to emphasize there were no 'near misses' and there was never any danger at any time. We don't do anything without air traffic controller's knowledge or permission," Brookwell said.

METRO CALGARY FILE PHOTO

According to a CBC news report, Calgary's police helicopter, similar to the one pictured here in 2004, has been involved in several in-air incidents. The Calgary police are defending the HAWCS aircraft, saying all manoeuvres are done with air traffic approval.

Brookwell said at no point did one aircraft not know the whereabouts of another nearby aircraft while in flight, adding that they are given directions by air traffic controllers when patrolling the air.

"We were never fined or reprimanded and up until now we never knew there were any concerns. If we were asked to sit down and come up with better communication, we would comply."

Transport Canada didn't return calls for comment, but Westjet spokesperson Richard Bartrem corroborated Brookwell's comments.

"There was never any danger and there were certainly no 'near-miss' incidents. It just shows that the traffic collision avoidance system works. It did what it is supposed to do," Bartram said, adding anything within one nautical mile would have resulted in a report.

Father of tot in methadone death wasn't supposed to have drug at home: Doctor

TRIAL A doctor says the father of a Calgary toddler who died of a methadone overdose wasn't supposed to have the powerful drug in his home.

Jonathon Hope and Lisa Guerin are on trial for manslaughter, criminal negligence and failing to meet their parental duties in the death of their 16-month-old daughter Summer.

The child died in April 2006 after ingesting methadone, which is used to help wean addicts off more powerful drugs.

A doctor from the Second Chance Recovery Clinic says Hope was allowed at one point to carry home his methadone in a locked box, but that privilege was revoked in 2006.

Court has heard that Hope told two officers he managed to take part of his dose home and he believed the medication was out of his daughter's reach.

Hope told a detective he suspected the toddler may have sipped from a coffee cup that contained the drug and which he had left on top of a TV in the bedroom.

When he returned from doing repairs on his car, the cup was on the floor.

He also told the detective that when he suggested to Guerin they take the girl for medical attention, she refused.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CALGARY OBITUARIES

CalgaryObits.com notes the following deaths in our community:

BARCLAY, Ruby
BARRIE, Alexander John (Alex)
BOUGHTON, Charles Albert
BOYD, Robert
BRANDT, Wilda Ann
CHANCE, Frohlic
CLIVE, Oglestone
CRANDALL, William James
DUPUIS, Irene Nellie Marie (nee Laporte)
ERICSON, Donald Martin
ESPEY, Shirley Louise (nee Wagner)
FRISKE, Daisy (nee Nyberg)
GARDNER, Bruce Franklin
GIBSON, Verna Myrtle (nee Titus)
HUTTON, Robert Stuart
JACKSON, Kelly Ann
KONOJACKI, Ludwig
KOSTIUK , William (Bill)
KRAUSERT, Eunice Donalda (nee Rye)
MACDONALD-WEBBER, Heather Frances
MCKINNA , David (Dave) John
MCMILLAN , Heather Louise
MOFFAT, Thomas David
MYRNA, Meville
QUEITSCH, Horst
REDDEKOPP, Mary
SKAPER, Viljen (William)
VESUWALLA, Aspi (Alan) Nariman
WATSON, Armande Blanche

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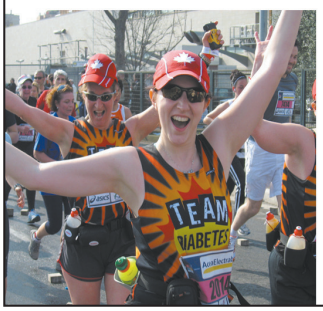

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Palestinian group holding speeches at U of C

Calgary's Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR) group is dedicating this week to the rights of Palestinian people. The week will consist of different presentations and speeches at the University of Calgary, MacEwan Hall Student Centre. METRO CALGARY

How safe are night riders?

Calgary Transit defends safety measures in light of harassment

IMAN BUKHARI
for Metro Calgary

Some Calgary Transit riders are questioning the safety of downtown trains and buses at night.

A pair of Calgary women have recently fallen victim to harassment and physical confrontations aboard C-Trains with other late night passengers who appear to be intoxicated.

"I don't like using the transit in downtown at night, but I don't have a choice," said 19-year-old Iman Abdullahi, saying the free fare zone may attract what she calls "chaos."

Ron Collins of Calgary Transit said safety initiatives have been undertaken to ensure a safe ride for passengers.

"Safety and security is utmost important to Calgary Transit. We take everything very seriously," said Collins.

Twenty-one-year-old Jessica Roh said she has been verbally abused and seen people physically harassed while riding downtown transit late at night.

METRO CALGARY FILE PHOTO

Calgary Transit says more transit officers have been hired to provide security on the C-Train.

"There's only so much that train drivers can do, sometimes passengers (helping) are more reliable than transit," she said

Passengers experiencing harassment can call the help line, which is located on every platform and C-Train, Collins said. If the situation is urgent, passengers can call 911.

The $3 parking lot fee has also helped fund safety measures. Buses now have drive cams (surveillance cameras), lighting has improved at train stations, and more transit officers have been hired, according to Collins.

Carolyn MacDonald, spokesperson for the Calgary Downtown Association, believes an increase in police presence has helped with safety concerns.

"The new platform locations have helped. We are starting to see crime decrease," said MacDonald.

Crews trying to take control of oil-well fire

HYTHE Specialists moved in yesterday to regain control of a gas well that was still on fire since it blew almost two weeks ago in northwestern Alberta.

The Energy Resources Conservation Board said it had approved a plan to put out the fire temporarily and install new equipment to allow any gas to be burned off through a flare stack.

The board said trace amounts of sour gas could be released during the procedure, but mobile air-quality units on site were not detecting any hydrogen sulphide. Residents in the area were notified and roadblocks put up. A no-fly zone was also in effect.

The nearest inhabitant lives more than seven kilometres away. No evacuations were ordered.

The well, which is licensed to Canadian Natural Resources Ltd., blew out Feb. 24 near Hythe — the same general area where there have been several bombings of energy industry sites over the last year.

RCMP have said the blowout was not suspicious.

Convicted oilpatch bomber Wiebo Ludwig, whose farm is near Hythe, has mounted protests in the past against energy development near his property.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Councillor wants report early

CITY HALL Transparency is at stake, according to one alderman, and the public has a right to know the city's purchasing process sooner.

Diane Colley-Urquhart wants an audit report on the city's procurement policy, which includes information on the controversial Peace Bridge, delivered to committee in April, rather than the end of May, when it is scheduled.

"There's no reason this can't come forward in April, being an election year and this council shutting down in July," said Colley-Urquhart via e-mail.

"We need to see the audit and have transparency on this matter."
Diane Colley-Urquhart

"We need to see the audit and have transparency on this matter and fix what is broken."

Audit committee chair Brian Pincott told council yesterday and has maintained from the beginning the schedule was set out from the start and the report will be delivered on time in May.

DARREN KRAUSE/METRO CALGARY

News in brief

RESTRAINTS Calgary police will be on the lookout for people who aren't wearing seatbelts and ensuring proper installation of car seats. Fines for not wearing seat belts, not having a car seat installed properly, or not having a child fastened correctly will set you back $115 for each infraction.

CAMPAIGN A $600,000 ad campaign launched yesterday by the provincial government will take aim at workplace injuries. Hopes are for the campaign to reduce workplace injuries by 25 per cent by 2012. The program will run across the province.

AWARD Flames co-owner Harley Hotchkiss will receive the Sherrold Moore Award tomorrow for his sense of co-operative spirit within the community. The Calgary Chamber of Commerce will present Hotchkiss with the award.

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'Pastor' sentenced to nine more months for another sex assault
Daniel Cormier, a self-described pastor serving time for sexually assaulting a minor, has been sentenced to an additional nine months for abusing another girl. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Conservatives axe 245 patronage jobs

The federal government has taken what is expected to be the first step in its efforts to rein in the civil service, trimming 245 patronage jobs on boards, agencies and tribunals.

The announcement from Treasury Board president Stockwell Day is largely symbolic, since the governor-in-council positions are largely funded through honorariums and expense charges.

Day said he expects the savings will total between $1 million and $1.25 million a year.

But the minister made clear more is coming. He said he has no specific number for how much smaller he wants the public service to be, but noted there is flexibility for cuts.

"We're going to continue (the) process of service reviews," he said. "We're not going to put a number in terms of individuals ... the fact is every year about 13,000 people leave the public service, that alone creates opportunities, breathing room for departments to make decisions (on staffing)."

Stockwell Day

In last week's budget, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty froze budgets, even though unionized public servants are in line to receive a 1.5 per cent salary boost in July.

The positions cut represent about nine per cent of the 2,700 positions filled by the cabinet on about 200 federal organizations and agencies. The reductions include 40 positions from the Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security review tribunals and 18 from the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.

Day said about 90 per cent of the positions targeted were already vacant and that he was confident there would be no impact on the functioning of the agencies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ScanLife

Saying Canada has abandoned its role, activists vow to stir the pot at G20 summit. Scan this code for the story.

Jean takes emotional tour of Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE There were tears, hugs and Creole songs as a mobbed Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean returned to her native Haiti yesterday for an emotional tour of the island's wreckage as well as its hopes.

Both were on constant display from the moment Jean stepped onto the lawn of the collapsed Palais national.

"Mourning is one thing," Jean said after a meeting with Haitian President René Préval.

"Making sure that life triumphs over destruction is the focus."

Préval, who moments earlier had spoken of Haiti's historic chance to rebuild, had also noted that the godmother of Jean's child had perished in the Jan. 12 earthquake.

Jean's next stop was Sainte Trinité Episcopalian Cathedral, the UNESCO World Heritage Site where Jean was baptized. It is now mostly tons of rubble.

Later, at an otherwise jubilant rally amid the ruins of the Ministry of Women's Rights, Jean finally cried during a song dedicated to a friend who died in the quake, the feminist Magalie Marcelin.

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Haitian President René Préval points out the damage to the presidential palace to Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean and her husband, Jean-Daniel Lafond, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti yesterday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

POLL A new poll suggests that most Canadians who tuned into the speech from the throne liked what they heard. And it also suggests more people approved of the federal budget than opposed it. The Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey says 87 per cent agreed with the throne speech proposal to freeze the salaries of MPs and senators. Support was more muted for the budget: Forty-two per cent supported it, while 28 per cent opposed it.

AIR INDIA A B.C. Supreme Court judge has dismissed the jury in the perjury trial of Inderjit Singh Reyat before jurors had a chance to hear any evidence. Reyat's trial was set to begin yesterday, but the start was delayed for several hours. Reyat testified for the Crown at the 2003 trial of two men who were acquitted in the Air India bombing, but an indictment lists 27 instances in which prosecutors allege he lied.

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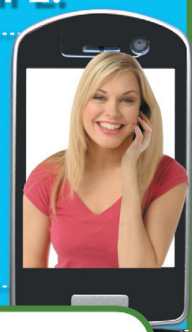

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Comment

Conservative vision becomes clear

NationalReport
Lawrence Martin

metronews.ca/nationalreport

We used to knock Stephen Harper's Conservatives for having no vision. The prime minister wasn't one for big words and fancy phrases.

Tom Flanagan, his former top strategist, spoke of incrementalism as being the favoured approach. The Conservatives didn't want to scare Canadians by putting out a muscular policy blueprint that would have them thinking they were in the grip of Republican-styled rednecks.

But four years in, it's become clear that the Conservatives are the party of vision and the Liberals are the party without one.

We couldn't see what the Conservatives were really up to because they kept taking detours. Only a year ago, Harper had party purists up in arms with his Keynesian big-spending approach to fighting the recession. It went against all his former precepts. But governance requires pragmatic detours and most of the detours have been taken — now it's clear what the Conservatives are all about.

They're about law and order, a strong military, smaller government with low tax rates, traditional Anglo-Saxon family values and flag-waving patriotism.

It's classic conservative stuff and a bold departure from the Trudeau-styled liberalism Canadians knew for so long. Progress has been made on all fronts. The crackdown-on-crime bills roll out with regularity. Defence spending has soared and only now will tail off. The GST has gone down two points and other tax reductions have been introduced. Multiculturalism has been curbed. With the emphasis on Arctic sovereignty, the flag has been hoisted in the North and, in this Olympic year, across the country. Last week's budget signals a shutting down of the spending taps that have been open for so long. With a smaller tax base in place, future governments won't have room for welfare-state initiatives.

What we've seen so far is only part of what the Tories have in mind. It's only been four years and it's been done with a minority government.

This idea of Canada — a Canada with stronger right-wing values than ever before — may not be what the majority of Canadians want. But it is coming and it's coming fast. And a big reason is that no strong alternative has been put in place by the Liberals. They are in the grey middle. They have been lurching all over the place without a concrete vision, leaving the people with no attractive option.

Lawrence Martin is a journalist and author of 10 books who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.

Views

Finding a way to make online users pay

InBusiness
Charles Davies

metronews.ca/inbusiness

The past several years haven't been much fun for publishers of newspapers and magazines. Declining circulation and plunging ad revenues have ravaged bottom lines.

Some newspapers have shuttered their print editions and become solely online publications, while other major names have been threatened with shutdowns. Last year, 367 U.S. magazines closed.

At least the decline was an improvement on 2008, when 526 magazines closed for good. Even in Canada, where newspaper readership remains remarkably stable, profits have been pinched and costs are being pared.

The aging of the print generation is one reason for the decline. But the big problem is the Internet. Every publication has a website and, while they generate some ad revenues, in most cases content is given away.

Publishers are dying to find ways to make the Internet pay, and now they have some measure of just how hard a sell it's going to be. A recent Nielsen Company survey of more than 27,000 consumers in 52 countries found that 85 per cent think Internet content that's now free should stay that way.

While many would consider paying for certain types of content, newspapers and magazines are a different matter. People are more reluctant to pay for them because their online content has become readily available.

There is, however, a solution for publishers. They can invest in quality content, the kind that's intensively researched, well reported, and diligently edited. Thoughtful and reliable content can give readers depth and understanding they won't necessarily find somewhere else.

There's a reason why people pay for full access to sites like The Economist or the Wall Street Journal. It's because they offer content and analysis that's qualitatively better than most of their competitors' free offerings. For a generation of Canadian publishers who have operated on the premise that editorial content costs are, at best, a nuisance to be tolerated, this could be a revelation.

Charles Davies is a veteran business writer who has worked for Canadian and international news organizations.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Cambodian rape victims face bribery demands: Report
Rape victims seeking justice in Cambodia face serious obstacles such as police who demand bribes before making an arrest, a human rights report released yesterday said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Conference will craft plan for Taliban

Afghan President Hamid Karzai said yesterday that an action plan to reintegrate low- to mid-level insurgent fighters into society and negotiate with the Taliban's top echelon will be crafted at a springtime peace conference aimed at ending the war. Karzai has already extended the government's offer to members of the Taliban who renounce ties to al-Qaida and other terrorist networks and agree to embrace the Afghan constitution.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Is getting to 100 in the genes?

It may not quite measure up to the fabled Fountain of Youth, but U.S. researchers say they are beginning to unlock the genetic mysteries of those who live astonishingly long and healthy lives.

And to put a complex story in its most compelling context, the mystery boils down to this: With an active lifestyle, and help from breakthrough medicines envisioned within our era, the chances of you sticking around to age 100 and beyond are better than ever.

So says the New England Centenarian Study, which is readying to publish surprising new discoveries culled from its latest trove of genetic mapping of Americans still ticking after 100 years of life.

The upshot is genes matter — but not as rigidly as you might think. The Boston-based group's findings suggest there are multiple genetic pathways to the century mark — a breadth of different variations and combinations of genes that deliver the prize of triple-digit longevity.

"There is a still tremendous amount still to be learned. But what this suggests is rather dramatic — you or I can both win the lottery of living to 100 with different combinations of genes," said Dr. Thomas Perls, director of the New England study group.

Perls' work is more easily done nowadays, given the surfeit of centenarians, who now are the fastest-growing age group in the United States, at 84,000 and counting. Some projections suggest their ranks will approach one million by 2050.

The number of Canadian centenarians appears to be comparatively smaller, with 6,000 people 100 or older, according to Canada's Chief Actuary, Jean-Claude Menard.

But that figure too is growing at a rapid rate.

Canada, however, does rank as the birthplace of 114-year-old Mary Josephine Ray, who, until her death Sunday, was the world's oldest verified American. She lived her first three years in Bloomfield, P.E.I., before moving south with her parents. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

El Salvador **Celebrating Women's Day**

LUIS ROMERO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Women march to celebrate International Women's Day in San Salvador, El Salvador, yesterday. In many countries in Latin America, the day was dedicated to honour and remember the resilience of Haitian women, and the lives of three feminist Haitian activists who died during the catastrophic earthquake.

Dutch bishop calls for inquiry

NETHERLANDS A leading Catholic bishop has called for an independent investigation into the sexual abuse of children by priests after 200 alleged victims contacted help services last week. What started as allegations of repeated incidents within a single cloister last month has quickly spread, and the Church victims' support organization Hulp en Recht has now received 200 complaints. Rotterdam Bishop Ad van Luyn has apologized to victims and called for an independent investigation. Leading political parties have echoed those calls.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cheaters never win? Not when it comes to nuclear energy, says Nicolas Sarkozy. Scan this code for the story.

France **Employees protest**

THAUT CAMUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An employee of French oil Giant Total, left, clashes with a security officer in the company's headquarters outside Paris yesterday. In a statement, Total says it will shut down a plant in Northwest France in response to falling demand for petroleum products, but that no workers will lose their jobs.

Seismologists: String of earthquakes is coincidental

EARTHQUAKES Experts say there is nothing unusual about the latest spate of earthquakes in Haiti, Chile and now Turkey, but their devastation illustrates how growing construction along the world's fault lines can lead to massive casualties.

Seismologists say that although one powerful quake can conceivably raise the risk for others elsewhere, the recent string of quakes is probably just coincidence. Bob Holdsworth, an expert in tectonics at Durham University, said yesterday that "I can definitely tell you that the world is not coming to an end." Bernard Doft, the seismologist for the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, says there is no direct connection between the lethal quakes that have struck Haiti, Chile and Turkey. "These events are too far apart to be of direct influence to each other," he said.

"I can definitely tell you that the world is not coming to an end."
Tectonics expert Bob Holdsworth

Although the Haitian quake occurred along a fault that had seen no major event for 250 years, both Chile and Turkey are prone to devastating quakes.

"It was by accident that it happened at approximately the same time," he said.

The quake in Turkey had a 6.0 magnitude. On average, there are 134 earthquakes a year that have a magnitude between a 6.0 and 6.9, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. This year is off to a fast start with 40 so far — more than in most years for that period of time.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saving seats for women protested

NEW DELHI India's government introduced a bill yesterday that would reserve one-third of the legislature's seats for women, angering socialist lawmakers who tore up papers and tried to tear out microphones.

The protests stalled debate and voting on the proposal until at least today. The bill has faced strong opposition since it was first proposed more than a decade ago, with many political leaders worried that their male-dominated parties would lose seats under a female quota system.

But Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's government is confident it has enough support this time and presented the bill to parliament on International Women's Day.

The bill is an attempt to correct some of the historical mistreatment of women in India. Most Indian women receive far less education than men and are weighed down by illiteracy, poverty and low social status. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gender gap

- Yesterday, a United Nations report said 96 million women in Asia have "disappeared" because of a gender gap that deprives them of access to health care and good nutrition, including about 43 million in India.

News in brief

NIGERIA The killers showed no mercy: They didn't spare women and children, or even a four-day-old baby, from their machetes. Dump trucks carried dozens of bodies past burned-out homes toward a mass grave yesterday. At least 200 people were slaughtered on Sunday. The local government gave a figure more than twice that amount, but offered no information to substantiate it.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Youth set to boost housing

Young Canadians are expected to give a boost to Canada's housing market this year as more of them tie the knot, get full-time jobs, and see those opportunities as major reasons to make take the plunge and buy a home.

A new study by the Royal Bank suggests that younger Canadians aged 18 to 24 are about to take the market by storm, with about 15 per cent of those surveyed in that age bracket saying they are very likely to buy, almost double the level recorded in 2009.

It's a marked shift in the attitudes of younger Canadians, who have tightened their budgets over the past few years to cope with tough job markets and a recessions.

The latest survey shows that overall attitudes are changing as more Canadians return to shopping for homes as the economy recovers, even though it's considered a seller's market.

"Confidence in the housing market is back, essentially," RBC senior economist Robert Hogue said yesterday.

Royal Bank said the study found more Canadians are "very likely" to buy a new home in the next two years.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. said that the seasonally adjusted annual rate of housing starts reached 196,700 units in February.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCANLIFE

Toyota fires back at critic who blames electronics for sudden acceleration issue. Scan this code for the story.

Tokyo **Facing the music**

SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toyota Motor Corp. president Akio Toyoda, centre, answers questions after meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama in Tokyo yesterday. The meeting came after Toyoda's appearance before U.S. lawmakers to talk about his company's recall.

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Your Money

Seize power by doing your tax return

AlisonOnMoney

Alison Griffiths

metronews.ca/alisononmoney

When I filled out my first tax return (too many years ago to state the number in a national column!), most Canadians did their own taxes — on paper. Today, 52 per cent of us pay someone else to do the annual chore. And that's a shame.

Every time you turn over your tax return to someone else you take a big step away from financial control. I know because I once started down that road.

With kids, a career, a marriage — not to mention an ever growing menagerie — there didn't seem to be enough time; also my return had become more complicated. But with an accountant doing the job I found myself understanding less and less about what was going on with my money. On top of that I was paying other people to make mistakes — and mistakes were made.

More than half of those who pay someone to do their taxes state they don't have the confidence or knowledge to tackle it themselves. However, today's tax software programs are simple to use.

Starting at around $19.99 popular titles include Quick Tax, UFile, HR Block, TurboTax, Cantax and GenuTax. Most offer multiple returns and often unlimited ones for low income filers. Couples can file together and the programs optimize who should claim a host of deductions from charitable donations through to medical expenses and the transfer of tuition and disability amounts.

Even small business owners and the self-employed can complete their returns easily. For example, use of home deductions are clearly laid out in these programs. You just plug in the number of rooms or percentage floor area plus figures for expenses such as hydro.

You may still end up on the phone with Canada Revenue Agency or with the software publisher (if you've upgraded to phone support) for clarification — it's income tax after all. However, if you take this step you will, as I did, achieve a sense of power over your finances. And I'm a big fan of seizing power when you can.

Alison Griffiths is a financial journalist, author and host of Maxed Out on the W Network. Write to her at alison@alisongriffiths.ca.

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One more reason to hate spam

HEATHER BUCHAN
For Metro Canada

Fraud Prevention

We've all received a forwarded email from a friend, containing a humorous or feel-good message, that ask us to pass it along to 10 others with the promise of "something good happening." And, many of us have done it. Seemingly harmless, right?

Not so, says Tim Richardson, an e-commerce professor at Seneca College. This is a typical scam and contributes to identity theft, he says.

"If you pass on a message, what you're doing is allowing the originator of the message to collect all these email addresses, which will then be used to send out spam email," he says.

Spam is one way fraudsters try to obtain personal information, including banking passwords, by sending out mass emails or text messages that appear to come from legitimate businesses. Also known as phishing, many Canadians have been tricked into sharing their social insurance number, credit card information. Typically, the email will claim to be from your bank asking you to update your personal information.

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Learning Curve is a special feature that focuses on education and student life.

Learning Curve

BLAISE MACMULLIN/FOR METRO CALGARY

Tyler Nagel, seen behind the camera at CFB Wainwright, says the Journalism in Conflict Zones course at Athabasca University provides a realistic operation environment and help make develop his skills.

Conflict Zones course a hit

APRIL STUART
for Metro Calgary

Hiking with 50 pounds of camera gear, working many hours, and not having much sleep, Tyler Nagel was going non-stop for three weeks.

Nagel took the course Journalism in Conflict Zones at Athabasca University and found it surpassed his expectations.

"It's one of the best experiences I've had in my whole life," said Nagel.

Nagel, who is finishing his bachelor of commerce degree at the university and is a journalism instructor at SAIT Polytechnic, feels other journalists would benefit from the course.

Nagel took the course when it first began last spring; it runs in conjunction with the war games the army conducts to prepare Canadian troops for Afghanistan.

"This is the most realistic operating environment that the Canadian Forces is able to create to train its troops to fight in Afghanistan," said Nagel.

Nagel learned how to develop stories in a medium new to him — television reporting — and in a challenging atmosphere.

Developing his skills so he could have well-rounded experiences to bring to his students at SAIT was one of many motivating factors for Nagel.

"I just wanted to reinforce what an amazing job Dr. (Evelyn) Ellerman has done in arranging all of this," said Nagel.

The course cost includes the flight to the base in Wainwright from Edmonton and food.

Because of the physical demand of the course, a doctor's note is required before students are accepted into the program.

"Students, I've noticed, are extremely tired at the end of the three-week period," said Dr. Evelyn Ellerman, associate professor, of communication studies at Athabasca University.

Putting in 18-hour days, chasing around the soldiers, and running up and down hills, a person needs to be in good health and physically fit for this course, Ellerman said.

A student who takes this course could expect a simulated environment that captures the essence of conflict zones.

The cost of the course is $638 and the next course is scheduled for the fall. The school hopes it will be available nationally soon.

'Recession can be an opportunity'

MICHELLE LINDSTROM
for Metro Calgary

Starting over is never easy, but it has become a reality for many Albertans in the form of a pink slip.

DeVry Calgary's president Ranil Herath says Alberta's traditionally strong economy has given numerous people high-paying jobs with little formal education.

He says Alberta has one of the lowest high school completion rates in the country because of this.

"In a downturn, employers get to be a little more picky for those credentials because there are more people competing for similar jobs," says Herath. Hence, DeVry's focus is to provide careers in business, technology and electronics, instead of simply short-term jobs. The institution offers flexible instruction at a swift pace — four-year business degrees can be completed in just under three years — to get people back in the workforce quickly and competently.

SAIT Polytechnic also takes speed into consideration with its fast track programs, which total between six and 12 months in length.

"They're very intensive (programs), but they allow a person to get trained in a short period of time," says Dr. Gord Nixon, SAIT's vice-president academic, citing various IT, construction and health and public safety options.

SAIT's pre-employment programs range between six and 18 weeks long, giving those interested in the trades hands-on experience.

"Sometimes the industry doesn't want to hire you because you have no experience, so you're caught in 'How are you going to get experience unless you get hired?'" Nixon says.

Bow Valley College's vice-president of learning Anna Kae Todd says existing programs within the institution are relevant for both a booming and deflated economy.

"Sometimes a recession can be an opportunity," Todd says, adding that recent job losses have been the motivation for people to make career changes they've always wanted to make.

"Many of our programs are as fast as they can be and still set the students up for success," she explains.

Some Bow Valley programs that run for one year or less include recreation therapy aide, behaviour support diploma and education assistant.

Each institution offers help via grants and loans that can be looked into further with school-specific advisers.

Online tools

- Sites recommended by the Government of Alberta Employment and Immigration are employment.alberta.ca and alis.alberta.ca for education and training links.

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Learning Curve is a special feature that focuses on education and student life.

Michael Nolan revs up fundraising

Raffle for popular student (car) at University of Lethbridge will fund scholarships

CANDICE WARD
for Metro Calgary

Michael Nolan's Facebook profile says he attends the University of Lethbridge, is single, is just looking to network and for friendship, but until last week, no one knew who he was.

He may have more friends then many U of L students, yet he is not even a real student but rather the star of the Student Union's clever campaign to raise money for student scholarships.

"It created a little bit of mystery and a little bit of buzz," said Jeremy Girard, President of the Students' Union at the U of L.

Michael Nolan is actually a car, a 1984 BMW 325e to be exact and has be generously donated by the U of L President, Bill Cade.

The identity of the mysterious Michael Nolan was finally unveiled to the student body on Feb. 22, after months of students, administrators and community members wondering who he was.

PHOTO SUPPLIED

University of Lethbridge President Bill Cade donated a 1984 BMW 325e, dubbed Michael Nolan, to help raise money for the university. Cade named the car after a distant family member who was instrumental in his education.

The Students' Union will be raffling off the car in hopes of raising about $10,000 towards student scholarships, with no specific scholarship details yet to release.

"We are going to be putting the money directly back to students," said Girard.

Girard commends Cade's intuitive and drive towards supporting the financial needs of students and hopes it has inspired other community members to do so.

> **"It created a little bit of mystery and a little bit of buzz."**
> Jeremy Girard, President of the Students' Union

"It is a great thing that President Cade has done here," said Girard.

Cade purchased the car brand new named it after a distant family member, who was instrumental in his mother's life and his education.

"That car is kinda special to me," said Cade.

Since Nolan was so influential in Cade's post-secondary education, it only made sense for Cade to pay it forward and let the Nolan name assist in someone else's educational career.

"I want to support students, I want to support their abilities to go to university," said Cade.

Cade has been contacted from people as far Texas with interest in purchasing tickets for this raffle but unfortunately they are only available at the U of L Student Union's office.

Nolan will have a new home, or more like garage on April 16, when the Student Union makes the draw for this gently used vehicle.

Tickets are $5 each or three for $12 and there are only about 2,300 tickets up for sale.

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DeVry Calgary

Pickett lands with Als

Former Toronto Argonauts quarterback Cody Pickett has landed a job with the Grey Cup champion Montreal Alouettes. The Als announced yesterday that they have signed the 29-year-old pivot, who was released last month by the Argos. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sports

McNabb, T.O. team up again

Donovan McNabb will be throwing passes to Terrell Owens again. McNabb, left, and Owens are teaming up on a basketball court instead of a football field in the new season of Spike TV's Pros vs. Joes. The episode features NFL players that played U.S. college basketball against former NBA stars. McNabb, Owens and Antonio Gates will face Hakeem Olajuwon, Kenny Smith and Toronto's Rick Fox. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

JUSTIN K. ALLER/GETTY IMAGES

Boston Bruins players gather around injured teammate Marc Savard Sunday night.

No 'cut and dry' fix for NHL head shots

As more ugly head shots make news, the NHL's 30 general managers are still wrestling with how to handle the issue.

The GMs were presented with an avalanche of information about concussions and various types of checks on the opening day of their annual meeting yesterday, but they seemed no closer to a recommendation that could lead to fewer hits to the head.

And the pressure is mounting. After watching Boston Bruins forward Marc Savard carried from the ice on a stretcher and hearing players start to voice concern, many are looking to the GMs to make some kind of recommendation by the time their meetings wrap up tomorrow.

It won't be easy.

"I hope that we can do something that can help fix part of the problem, but it's not really as cut and dry as a lot of people think," said Carolina Hurricanes GM Jim Rutherford.

VideoOnline

Watch Matt Cooke's hit on Marc Savard at metronews.ca/sports

The managers have discussed the issue several times in the past, including at these meetings a year ago after former NHL Players' Association executives Paul Kelly and Glenn Healy raised it.

They've yet to find an acceptable way to reduce the head hits while still maintaining the physical nature of the sport.

The GMs will break into smaller groups today to discuss a variety of topics — including head shots — and could come up with a recommendation before going home. Any rule change is subject to the approval of the competition committee and board of governors.

After watching video and hearing from Calgary-based concussion expert Winne Meeuwisse yesterday, the GMs should be armed with enough information.

"We tried to educate them as much as we can on the issues at stake here," said league disciplinarian Colin Campbell. "I am confident they'll certainly be informed of everything. This is a real difficult task ... that we face here. The hits are great until someone gets hurt.

"There's such a fine line to determine whether it's legal or illegal."

The issue was back in the spotlight Sunday when Savard left the ice on a stretcher after taking a hard blindsided check to the head from Pittsburgh's Matt Cooke. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Howard keeps perfect record

BRIER Glenn Howard's Ontario rink is still perfect at the Tim Horton's Brier.

Howard, a three-time Brier winner, beat New Brunswick and Nova Scotia yesterday to top the standings at 5-0.

Manitoba, Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador are close behind with 4-1 records after three days of play.

Alberta's Kevin Koe struggled in the early draw, losing to B.C. He got back on track with a 9-5 win over Saskatchewan (2-3).

Manitoba's Jeff Stoughton easily handled Quebec in his only contest of the day. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Dallas 4 Washington 3 (SO)
Columbus at Los Angeles

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Cleveland 97 San Antonio 95
Dallas 125 Minnesota 112
Memphis 107 New Jersey 101
New Orleans 135 Golden State 131
New York 99 Atlanta 98

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Food and rock 'n' roll

Staring April 1, check out Food Network Canada's brand new Canadian series, Bitchin' Kitchen. It explores delicious recipes for life and love with a twisted sense of humour and a rock 'n' roll edge. The host is Nadia G. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

The survey says... more organic

Expect to see more organic produce and locally sourced food on Canadian restaurant menus, a survey of professional chefs reveals. Conducted by the Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association, the survey of close to 400 chefs took place in January and February by BrandSpark International, a Canadian market research firm. The top menu trends across the country as identified by the chefs include sustainability, artisanal cheeses, simplicity and back to the basics, nutrition and healthy cuisine. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Canadian Living magazine is on sale now!

Canadian Living recipe of the month

Pan poached salmon

Poached Salmon with Salsa Verde

PREP: 10 MINUTES
COOK: 10 MINUTES
MAKES: 4 SERVINGS

INGREDIENTS:
- 1 each onion and rib celery, thinly sliced
- 3 thin slices lemon
- 4 sprigs fresh parsley
- ½ tsp (2 mL) each salt and peppercorns
- 4 skin-on salmon fillets (each 6 oz/175 g)
- Lemon wedges

Salsa Verde:
- ⅓ cup (75 mL) fresh bread crumbs
- 3 Tbsp (45 mL) red wine vinegar
- 1 hard-cooked egg, coarsely chopped
- 1 bunch fresh parsley, stemmed
- 2 Tbsp (25 mL) capers
- 2 anchovy fillets
- 1 clove garlic
- ¼ cup (50 mL) extra-virgin olive oil

Left; Poached Salmon with Salsa Verde. Right: Lemon Cupcakes with Chocolate Icing.

METHOD:

1. In wide low pan large enough to hold fish in single layer, bring 3 cups (750 mL) water, onion, celery, lemon, parsley, salt and peppercorns to boil. Cover, reduce heat and simmer for 5 minutes.
2. Add fish; poach just below simmer, covered, just until salmon flakes easily when tested, 5 to 7 minutes. With slotted spatula, transfer fish to plates; remove skin.
3. **Salsa verde:** Meanwhile, soak bread crumbs in vinegar for 5 minutes; transfer to food processor. Add egg, parsley, capers, anchovies and garlic; chop finely. With motor running, drizzle in oil and 3 tbsp (50 mL) of the cooking liquid. Serve with salmon. Garnish with lemon wedges.

Lemon Cupcakes with Chocolate Icing

PREP: 15 MINUTES
COOK: 20 MINUTES
MAKES: 12 CUPCAKES

INGREDIENTS:
- 1 cup (250 mL) granulated sugar
- 4 tsp (20 mL) grated lemon rind
- ½ cup (125 mL) unsalted butter, softened
- 4 eggs
- 2 Tbsp (25 mL) lemon juice
- ¾ cup (175 mL) sifted cake-and-pastry flour
- ¾ cup (175 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp (5 mL) baking powder
- ¼ tsp (1 mL) baking soda
- Pinch salt
- ½ cup (125 mL) milk

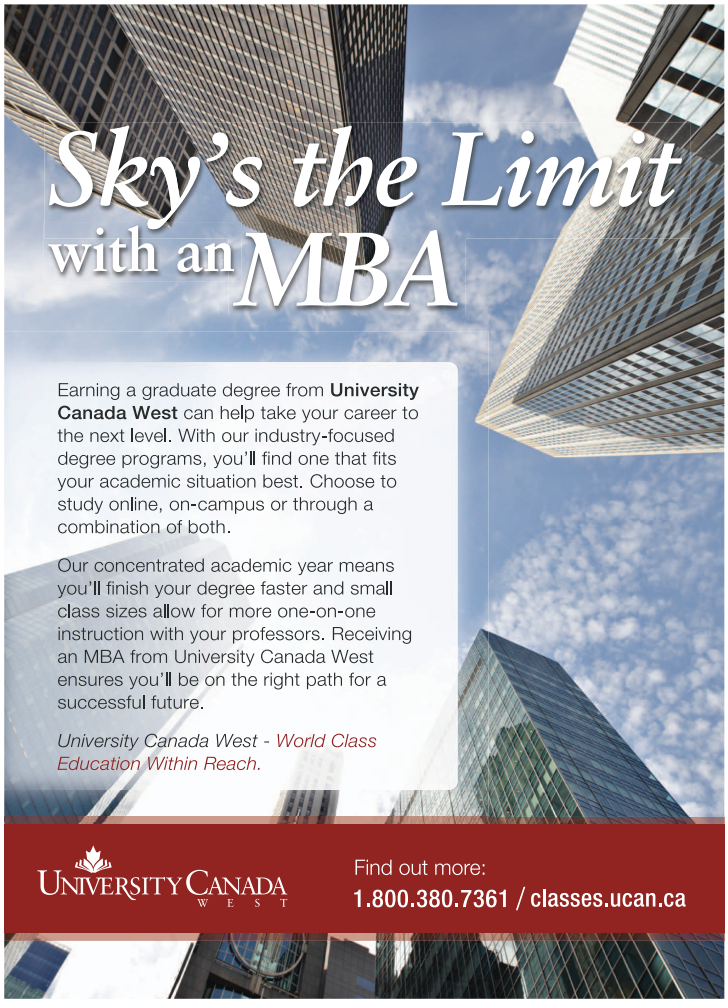
Chocolate icing:
- ½ cup (125 mL) unsalted butter, softened
- 1¼ cups (300 mL) icing sugar
- Pinch salt
- 2 oz (60 g) unsweetened chocolate, melted and cooled
- 2 tsp (10 mL) hot water

METHOD:

1. In small bowl and using fingers, rub sugar with lemon rind until fragrant.
2. In large bowl, beat butter until light and pale, about 2 minutes. Beat in lemon sugar, 1/4 cup (50 mL) at a time and beating for 30 seconds after each, until fully incorporated, about 5 minutes total. Beat in eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after each (mixture will be runny). Beat in lemon juice.
3. In separate bowl, whisk together cake-and-pastry flour, all-purpose flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt; sift into butter mixture alternately with milk, making 4 additions of dry ingredients and 3 of milk (batter will look curdled). Scrape into 12 paper-lined or greased muffin cups.
4. Bake in 350°F (180°C) oven until cake tester inserted in centre comes out clean, about 20 minutes. Let cool in pans on racks for 10 minutes. Turn out onto racks; let cool completely.
5. Chocolate Icing: In bowl, beat together butter, icing sugar and salt until fluffy; beat in chocolate. Beat in hot water until fluffy. Spread over cupcakes.

online

For more Tested-Till-Perfect recipes, visit canadianliving.com



LiquidAssets

Peter Rockwell

metronews.ca/liquidassets

Cheap vinos

As the economy shuffles its way back to some form of normalcy the one thing many of you have kept as a souvenir from the last year or so is a new found appreciation for cheap wine.

I know what you're thinking. Hasn't there always been a market for true "table" wines? Sure, but what our latest financial catastrophe happened to coincide with was the arrival of some really decent under $10 juice at national liquor stores.

And I'm not talking blended in Canada type stuff. The abundance of quality fruit being produced in Argentina, Chile, Australia and the U.S. has meant that for once there's actual variety when you head down to the bargain basement.

California's Gray Fox Vineyards' wines are a good example of inexpensive consistency. Its creamy **2008 Chardonnay** ($6.95 - $9.99) is all about up-front tropical fruit that will cozy up nicely to roast chicken and simple shellfish-based dishes.

If you like your reds full-bodied the **2008 Cabernet Sauvignon** ($7.95 - $9.99) may be too light for you. Its soft raspberry and sweet cherry flavours do make it an ideal summer quaffer (with barbecue written all over it) or one to entice white wine drinkers to the dark side.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years and travelling the globe looking for something to fill his glass and put into words.

Coveted coverup
For 10 years, Cover FX has quietly created a cult following across Canada. The original cream foundation ($39) was crafted to cater to the needs of people with skin disorders but successfully crossed over to beauty, now with more than 30 shades available at Sephora, The Bay and Shoppers Drug Mart. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Health & Beauty

EDITOR: EMMA.YARDLEY@METRONEWS.CA

Face forward on fall runways

LIZA HERZ
for Metro Canada

The major fashion shows aren't just a preview of what we'll be wearing six months from now, they also flash some massive clues about the latest beauty trends.

Think of it as the cosmetic culture's version of a crystal ball, a chance to peer into the future and glimpse the latest looks from the Autumn/Winter 2010/11 collections, as seen on four world runways.

This year, if there's anything conclusive to say about the recent ready-to-wear shows in Europe and New York, it's that we'll still be wearing nude lipstick in September.

Unless of course, we're wearing bright orange lipstick instead.

That's the eternal seesaw of beauty. For every trend, a counterveiling trend.

FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES FOR IMG

New York: Michael Angel went green and natural.

1 NEW YORK
Bright spring-like colours were a definite theme on Gotham's runways: Orange lips at Max Azria and Richard Chai, ice blue eye shadow at Jason Wu. Maybelline New York's global makeup artist Charlotte Willer giddily underlined eyes in vivid green for Michael Angel (see Maybelline's Irresistibly Ivy Eye Studio palette, $12), then paired it with a subtle, nude lip colour (Maybelline Color Sensational lipstick in Born with It, $10) dabbed on by finger for a soft, edgeless look.

AMY SUSSMAN/GETTY IMAGES

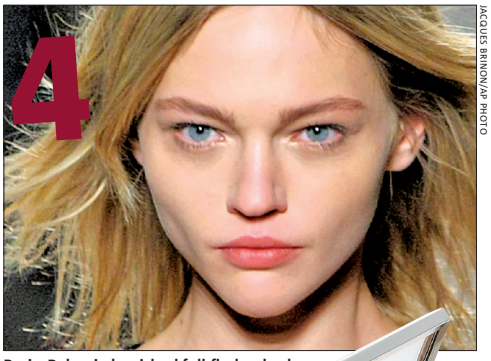
London: Mulberry modernized a classic '60s look.

2 LONDON
Lush and seductive were the bywords in Londontown. Stained berry lips at Pringle of Scotland, eyeliner lining mouths at Vivienne Westwood. At Mulberry the smoky cat eye added an edge of retro allure to the bright, flirty clothes. Unlike a precise cat-eye rendered in liquid eyeliner, the smoky look is virtually goof-proof because the smudgier it looks the better it looks. Try it with Covergirl's Smoky ShadowBlast in Onyx Smoke ($9).

GIANLUCA ALBERTA RIGIAN LUCA ALBERTARI FOTOGRAMMA

Milan: Gianfranco Ferre revved it up with red.

3 MILAN
Nothing gives you more impact for less effort than bright red lips. This attention-getting trend appeared all over Milan: with minimal eye makeup at Gianfranco Ferre; with a smoky cat eye at DSquared; and in an over the top trifecta of red, at Luisa Beccaria, MAC's makeup artists went all out using MAC's Cherry pencil ($15.50), Ruby Woo lipstick ($16.50) and Russian Red lip glass ($16.50). La Dolce Vita indeed.



JACQUES BRINON/AP PHOTO

Paris: Balmain banished full-fledged colour.

PARIS
A healthy glow? Mais, non! **4** Pale skin dominated the Paris shows, paired with a defined brow and a soft pink mouth at Nina Ricci, Balmain, and Dries Van Noten. At Balenciaga the girls were as translucent as space aliens with only a soft circle of blush for colour. Get the look with Clarins Cotton Flower Collector Face Palette ($42), a subtle shimmery veil that evens skin tone and adds luminosity

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Barker gets DJ Am tattoo

Travis Barker showed off his new tattoo, which honours his longtime friend, the late DJ AM. Barker posted a photo of the thigh tattoo on his Twitter account and tweeted, "Finished my AM tattoo last night." **POPEATER.CA**

Entertainment

Dance partner

Brooke Burke is set to co-host Dancing With the Stars alongside Tom Bergeron, it was announced yesterday. Burke will replace Samantha Harris, who said in January that she was leaving the show. **PEOPLE.COM**

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

The next big thing

Canadian Music Week shines light on up-and-coming acts

TheAudioFiles

Bryan Borzykowski
metronews.ca/music

The biggest music festival in the country kicks off in Toronto this week with 700 acts from across Canada and around the world setto perform. Here are five bands that are posied to make a little more noise than the others for the assembled media and industry delegates at Canadian Music Week.

Hannah Georgas: You probably haven't heard of Vancouver singer-songwriter Hannah Georgas, but it won't be long until her name is uttered in the same breath as Feist and Emily Haines. Georgas, whose song You've Got a Place Called Home was featured in a Walmart commercial, doesn't sound like the those artists, but her infectious indie rock sounds are just as confident and mature. Her delicate voice, coupled with her brand of edgy pop is a must-see.

Ghostkeeper: It's not every day you hear a band that combines old-timey folk, blues and noise pop, which is precisely why this Calgary foursome is on a lot of people's CMW lists. The band is difficult to describe — their debut disc starts off with an acoustic White Stripes-like blues tune, but ends up veering off into distorted blasts of weird rock. It's intriguing and unusual, but catchy and accessible too.

Handsome Furs: This husband and wife duo don't need any more press, but it bears repeating — Montreal's Handsome Furs are easily one of Canada's best acts. Led by Dan Boeckner, one of Wolf Parade's vocalists, the band combine Springsteen-like songwriting with electro fuzz, wailing guitars and frighteningly intense energy. Live shows are notoriously wild — it's easy to forget that there are just two people on stage — and you'll be singing the songs long after the gig ends.

Postdata: If you like haunting melodies and soft acoustics with an East Cost sensibility, then you have to see Halifax's Postdata. It's actually a new project from Paul Murphy, Wintersleep's frontman, but I'd argue that it's far better than anything he's put out with his band. His debut disc is littered with bright, inspiring vocals overtop quiet fingerpicked guitars and droney keys. Check this out before he returns to his day job.

Rural Alberta Advantage: There are many, many fantastic Ontario acts to see during CMW, but if you're going to see one band from Canada's most populous province, make it the Rural Alberta Advantage. The group — whose singer hails from Fort McMurray and sings about Alberta — is based in Toronto and caught a break when one of their tunes was featured on eMusic. Now, people can't get enough of this trio. The straight-up indie rock is filled with countless hooks and wild percussion, while even big city dwellers can relate to the songs about small-town Canada.

Calgary's Ghostkeeper is playing Canadian Music Week in Toronto.

Bryan Borzykowski is a business and entertainment writer. Follow Metro Music on Twitter @TheMetroMusic

DVD picks

Up in the Air

Directors: Jason Reitman

GEORGE CLOONEY HAS never seemed more vulnerable or more in tune with a role than he does as corporate downsizer Ryan Bingham, a high-flying Grim Reaper for recessionary times.

This isn't the grinning matinee idol of the Ocean's 11 movies or countless magazine fronts, trading on his looks rather than his talent. Clooney puts flesh and blood into his paradoxical portrayal of Bingham, a hitman with a conscience, and the story obviously matters to him as much as it does to director Jason Reitman. Together they are asking how America, a land of boundless optimism and promise, could be reduced to finding more efficient ways to think smaller.

Hovering above the clouds, Bingham literally floats through life. This thoughtfully entertaining film represents a quantum leap for Clooney, who has never been better, or funnier. Bingham may have met his match in two women, one he knows casually and the other professionally. There's Alex (Vera Farmiga), another perpetual road warrior who shares his delight with high-end travel and hotel sex. Then there's Natalie (Anna Kendrick), a new hire at Bingham's Omaha downsizing firm whose last name "Keener" says it all.

Precious

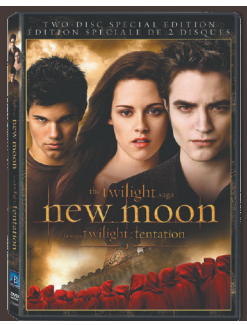
Directors: Lee Daniels

PRECIOUS IS RELENTLESS. Set in the bleak Harlem of 1987, it's unyielding in the appalling ills it heaps upon Claireece (Precious) Jones, an illiterate and morbidly obese 16-year-old who wouldn't know good luck if it smacked her in the head.

Played with astonished grace by newcomer Gabourey Sidibe, the teen uses silence and surliness to shut out the world. But she can't hide the shocking fact of her condition: she's pregnant for the second time, again the result of rape by her own father. She's about to be kicked out of school, allegedly for being a classroom disruption — although she's the one who must bear the cruel taunts of her classmates.

Precious gets no relief at home from her mother Mary (comic Mo'Nique, another revelation), a figure out of a Grand Guignol nightmare who treats her daughter as both slave and despised cur.

The picture painted by director Lee Daniels is almost unbearably bleak, but it feels honest. It's indeed relentless, but also transfixing and ultimately transformative. Working with an Oscar-winning screenplay by fresh pen Geoffrey Fletcher, Daniels finds humanity within the suffering. **Peter Howell/for Metro Canada**



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Avatar director inspired by Star Wars

James Cameron was so impressed by Star Wars he quit his job as a trucker to become a director. The Avatar filmmaker admits the George Lucas sci-fi epic inspired him to do more with the movie images he had in his head than simply talk about them. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Star power lights up Oscars bash

With his shaggy red hair, black leather jacket and skintight American flag-printed jeans, Olympic gold medallist Shaun White upstaged even Oscar winner Sandra Bullock at a pack of parties around town following the Academy Awards.

The snowboarder was one of a group of Olympic athletes who mingled with A-listers at the parties Sunday, sometimes eliciting "oohs" and "ahhs" from the movie stars themselves.

At Vanity Fair's bash at West Hollywood's Sunset Tower Hotel, a string of celebrities, including Lenny Kravitz and Jon Voight, sought out White. Even Olympic-winning speed skater Apolo Anton Ohno, who wore a sleek tux, looked happy to meet White.

Vanity Fair was steeped in a sea of nominees and winners. Vases of white, pink and yellow orchids decorated the room, along with bowls of red apples stenciled with "VF."

By the time Sandra Bullock showed up, gripping her best-actress Oscar statuette and mugging for photographers with her husband, Jesse James, the party was in full swing, and White and his crew had left for another bash.

"Kelly (Osborne) dropped my jaw. She looks the most amazing of anyone I've seen."
Olympic figure skater Johnny Weir

Others attending the party included best-actress nominee Carey Mulligan, who giggled with friends in a corner. Oscar co-host Alec Baldwin joked with Sean Penn.

Hilary Swank and Tim Robbins ate burgers from In-N-Out Burger that were served by waiters dressed in the chain's uniform.

And best-director nominee Quentin Tarantino, wearing a black knit cap, leather jacket and sneakers, made a beeline for the bar after arriving at 11:45 p.m.

Jennifer Lopez and her husband, Marc Anthony, made a grand entrance, accepting handshakes left and right.

Sean "Diddy" Combs laughed with Marlon and Shawn Wayans. Robert Downey Jr., wearing a blue bow tie and tinted glasses, talked with Natalie Portman. Zac Efron, Taylor Lautner and the Jonas Brothers yielded high-pitched shrieks from their high-voltage female fans gathered on the sidewalk outside the hotel.

"Great job tonight," said Julianne Moore, winking to Oscar co-host Steve Martin. Earlier, Moore and her A Single Man co-star Colin Firth, a best-actor nominee, held court on a patio outside.

Nearby, at Elton John's 18th-annual viewing dinner and after-party at the Pacific Design Center's tented courtyard, Kelly Osbourne stayed close to fashion-savvy figure skater Johnny Weir most of the night.

Saying he was "very small fry" when he attended John's party a few years ago, Weir marveled at his new status.

"Now I'm running with Kelly Osbourne, who's supportive of my skating. It's beautiful," said Weir, who had just met Osbourne at the party.

"Kelly dropped my jaw. She looks the most amazing of anyone I've seen."

Osbourne, who attended the party with her mother, Sharon Osbourne, wore a delicate, pale pink gown by local designer Sue Wong.

At the party, a Godiva chocolate bar was set up to serve rich dark and milk chocolate balls to guests in attendance.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

Rocking a pair of skintight American flag pants, Olympic gold medallist Shaun White attends the Oscars Vanity Fair party.

'Cove' village defends its traditions

DOCUMENTARY The Japanese fishing village featured in The Cove, which won an Oscar for best documentary, defended its practice of hunting dolphins yesterday as part of a long tradition.

The movie, which mixes stunning underwater shots of gliding

dolphins with covertly filmed grisly footage of their slaughter, also claims that dolphin meat is laden with toxic mercury.

Taiji, a quiet fishing village on the rocky coast of southwestern Japan, kills only a small fraction of the dolphins hunted by the country each year.

But it has long been a target of environmentalists and animal lovers because it uses a method called "oikomi," in which the dolphins are chased into shore, making the hunt more visible.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
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	-	- 4 OMNI	King/Queens	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Metropia
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	244	338 7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	The Good Wife "Fleas"		NCIS "Double Identity"		NCIS: Los Angeles (N)		News Hour
	246	- 8 CKAL	Law & Order: Special Victims		Parenthood (HDTV) (N)		The Biggest Loser The contestants work at a food bank.				EP Daily
	119	705 9 CBXFT	Virginie (SC)	La Facture	Providence (HDTV) (SC)		Trauma "Foi et néant" (SC)		Le Téléjournal Nouvelles. (SC)		TJ Alberta
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news	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	508	502 31 CNN2	The Joy Behar Show		Nancy Grace		Showbiz Tonight		The Joy Behar Show		Nancy Grace
sports	400	400 21 TSN	Curling	SportsCentre		NBA Basketball Toronto Raptors at Los Angeles Lakers. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre
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family	552	543 20 YTV	iCarly	To Be Indie	iCarly	Scorpion	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz
	557	541 39 FAM	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School
	555	545 67 TOON	Jimmy Two	Johnny Test	Johnny Test	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad
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	602	568 23 W	House-Sell	This House	Supernanny		Shopping Bags	Grocery Bag	Beauty Call	Style by Jury	Look Good
	521	560 24 TLC	19 Kids-Count	19 Kids-Count	Miss Turkey Trot		Dwarf Adoption Story		19 Kids-Count	19 Kids-Count	Miss Turkey
	603	561 25 FOOD	Hell's Kitchen		Good Eats	Good Eats	Restaurant Makeover		Diner, Drive-In	Unwrapped	Hell's Kitchen
	615	520 26 A&E	Criminal Minds		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		(10:01) Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds
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	520	505 35 DISC	Destroyed	Destroyed	Swamp Loggers (N)		Daily Planet		Destroyed	Destroyed	Swamp Log.
	620	523 36 BRAVO	Kaeshammer	Side-Dick Dale	Cowboy Junkies: Trinity		Law & Order "Good Girl"		Without a Trace		*Man on Train*
	294	650 40 WPCH	Law & Order: Special Victims		Seinfeld	Name Is Earl	*King's Ransom* ★ (2005, Comedy) Anthony Anderson.				*King's Ransom*
	626	547 41 COM	Just for Laughs		Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Flt.-Conchords
	-	539 42 TCM	(6) *Ikiru* ★★★ (1952, Drama)			*Throne of Blood* ★★★★ (1957, Drama) Toshirô Mifune.				*The Hidden Fortress* (1958)	
	628	584 43 SPIKE	UFC Unleashed		Blue Mountain	Players (N)	Ways to Die	Ways to Die	Ways to Die	Ways to Die	Players (HDTV)
	522	516 45 HIST	Ancients Behaving Badly		Ancient Discoveries		Cities of the Underworld		Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Ancients-Badly
	627	528 46 SPACE	Medium (HDTV) (N)		Masters of Science Fiction		InnerSpace (N)	Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Next Gener.	
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *Space Cowboys* ★★★ (2000, Adventure)				*Blazing Saddles* ★★★ (1974, Comedy) Cleavon Little.				*Ballad of Josie*
	619	525 49 TROP	End of Leash	Last 10	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Rescue Ink		Dog Whisperer		End of Leash
	600	564 50 HGTV	Sarah's House	Genevieve	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes on Homes		Sarah's House	Genevieve	Outdoor Room
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Tonight		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
	504	508 70 BNN	Squeeze Play		Business News	Commodities	Market Call Tonight		Headline	Commodities	Squeeze Play
	526	507 92 VIVA	The Closer "Round File"		Cold Case "Cargo"		Psychic Inv.	Ghostly Enc.	Judging Amy "Lullaby"		Missing
	269	350 93 APTN	Fish Out of	Mixed Blessing	Cashing In	Rabbit Fall	*Coyote Waits* (2003, Mystery) Adam Beach, Wes Studi.				Fish Out of
	-	- 94 MCP	World News	News	My Queen	Immortal Yi, So	Il Caffe		In Germany	Euromaxx	Schauplatz
	571	581 100 MMM	mmtop10.ca		Hammertime	Gimme Sugar	Gene Simmons	Wild 'n Out	Hammertime	Gimme Sugar	Gene Simmons
	570	580 101 MM	Muchmusic Countdown			Paul Telner	UR11		America's Best Dance Crew		Love Court
	581	566 102 MTV	16 and Pregnant		16 and Pregnant (N)		My Life as Liz	MTV Live	Taking, Stage	Buried	16-Pregnant
	-	- 116 TV5	Partir autrement		ADN	Nouva	TV5 Le Journal	(9:35) Temps présent		Plus belles baies	

critics' corner

Sarah's House
Sarah Richardson has a vested interest in the properties she makes over on this series: They're hers. In the third season, the designer and her partner, Tommy Smythe, tackle the room-by-room renovation of a rustic farmhouse, with an eye always on the bottom line. 12 PM on HGTV

The Biggest Loser
The blue and black teams compete in a challenge that tests their strength as each pulls a truck, then puts together a puzzle with crates they had to stop and load along the way. Later, the contestants must work eight-hour shifts at a food bank and make time for workouts, a task right out of real life that proves very challenging for some players. 9 PM on CKAL KHQ

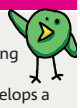
NCIS: Los Angeles
Callen (Chris O'Donnell) and the NCIS team must delve into the world of underground street racing when a sailor competing in one of these races is killed. They soon discover that not only had his car been sabotaged, but it contained confidential Navy equipment. Speaking of cars, Callen is required to attend traffic school in the new episode "Full Throttle." 10 PM on CICT KREM

Movie trivia: He prepared for Law Abiding Citizen by sitting in rush hour traffic
Gerald Butler reportedly got so infuriated with Victoria Beckham causing a hold-up on the Academy Awards red carpet he ignored waiting photographers and headed straight into the event, femalefirst.co.uk reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets



ROB THOMAS is committed to keeping his fans updated, **MINDY KALING** develops a new crush, **PETE WENTZ** is only making his son uncomfortable today (so far), and **LILY ALLEN**'s retirement plans do not involve rhetorical coherence.

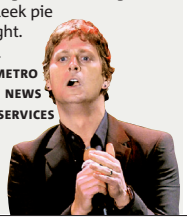
@ThisIsRobThomas working out. going down to the studio for a while and then i'm going to buy a new i-book. if you care.

@mindykaling Oh, Sam Worthington, your glasses make me think you're imperfect and therefore accessible.

@petewentz the baby does not recognize me beardless or at least he's suspicious.

@lilyroseallen Now that I've retired in gonna try and get on "come dine with me" I'm making chicken tarragon and leek pie tonight. Yum.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



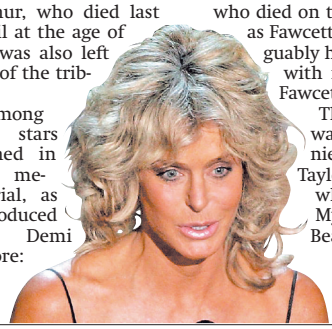
Farrah snubbed by Academy?

THE ANGELS – AND BEASUS CHRIST – ARE NOT IMPRESSED Farrah Fawcett was left out of the Oscar tribute to those in the film industry who died last year, usmagazine.com reports.

While the actress — who passed away in June at age 62 after battling cancer — was mostly known for her TV role in Charlie's Angels. But she did appear in multiple movies, including The Cannonball Run, Extremities and The Apostle.

Twittered Star Jones, "FYI...Farrah had a very diverse career...that included Broadway, TV & Film. She even received a Golden Globe nom."

Golden Girls' star Bea Arthur, who died last April at the age of 86, was also left out of the tribute.



Among the stars named in the memorial, as introduced by Demi Moore: Patrick Swayze, Ed McMahon and Brittany Murphy.

Also included in the tribute was Michael Jackson, who died on the same day as Fawcett and who arguably had less to do with movies than Fawcett.

The tribute was accompanied by James Taylor on guitar who sang In My Life by the Beatles.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Theron's dress shredded by online fashion police

THE LOOK: FLORAL FEMBOT Charlize Theron wasn't so chic at Sunday's Academy Awards ... according to fashion critics, usmagazine.com reports. Bloggers ripped on her amethyst and lilac bustier gown with rose and draped detail, created specially for her by John Galliano for Dior.

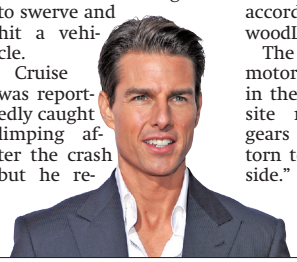
"Almost every year somebody wears something off-the-wall crazy to the Oscars, and this year the unfortunate honour goes to Charlize Theron," sniped Eonline. "Yep, those are her lady lumps wrapped in lilac rosettes, courtesy of Dior Haute Couture. This one's going down in the history books along with the swan dresses and pirate costumes."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Cruise loses control of motorbike

THE ONLY MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE HERE IS TOM'S COOLNESS Tom Cruise narrowly avoided serious injury after crashing his motorcycle in Los Angeles on Sunday, according to femalefirst.co.uk.

The Mission: Impossible star was riding through the city on his motorbike when another car drove through a stop sign in front of him, forcing him to swerve and hit a vehicle.



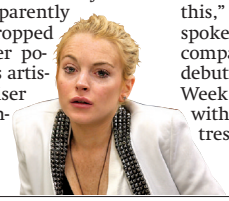
Cruise was reportedly caught limping after the crash but he refused to go to the hospital, according to HollywoodLife.com.

The actor's red Ducati motorcycle was mangled in the crash and the website reports the bike's gears were "completely torn to shreds on the left side."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lindsay relieved of Ungaro fashion duties

ORANGE SKIN AND VACANT, STRUNG OUT EXPRESSION? *SO LAST SEASON* Lindsay Lohan has apparently been dropped from her position as artistic adviser for fashion house Ungaro, according to Women's Wear Daily.



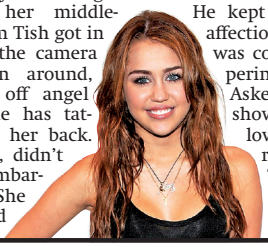
"She's not involved in this," a company spokesperson said as the company's Fall 2010 line debuted at Paris Fashion Week over the weekend with the high-profile actress nowhere in sight.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Miley a 'class act' at Oscars

AND JUST IN CASE THE QUOTATION MARKS WERE TOO SUBTLE, THAT HEADLINE CONVEYS EVERY FIBER OF SARCASM IN MY BEING Miley Cyrus had plenty of people talking at Sunday's Academy Awards, people.com reports. On E!'s pre-show, she kept slouching in her champagne-coloured silk and tulle Jenny Packham gown.

Then, her middle-aged mom Tish got in front of the camera and spun around, showing off angel wings she has tattooed on her back. Miley, 17, didn't seem embarrassed. She even told host Ryan Seacrest her mom "has nice choices in tattoos."



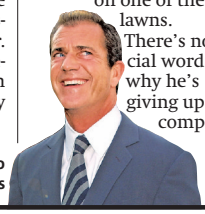
Cyrus later ditched her mom at Elton John's post-Oscar bash, where she snuggled with boyfriend (and Last Song costar) Liam Hemsworth.

At the bash, they packed on the PDA — when she wasn't furiously texting. He kept touching her affectionately and she was constantly whispering in his ear. Asked on E!'s preshow if she's in love, Miley coyly replied, "Maybe."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Gibson home going for a song

HE NEEDS A BIGGER PROPERTY TO ADEQUATELY HOUSE HIS DELUSIONS Mel Gibson has put his nine-bedroom, 8.5-bathroom Malibu home on the market for a mere $14.5 million US, according to TMZ. The massive hacienda-style property also boasts tennis courts, indoor and outdoor dining areas and a giant chess set on one of the lawns.

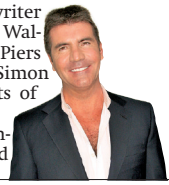


There's no official word on why he's giving up the compound.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Duelling wedding bells for Cowell and Piers?

'I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU EGO AND WIFE' Simon Cowell and pal Piers Morgan maybe facing off against each other this summer as they both plan weddings that threaten to conflict with each other, according to the Daily Mail. Cowell has proposed to girlfriend Mezhgan Hussainy, while Morgan is set to wed writer Celia Waldon. "Piers and Simon have lots of friends in common and want to make sure their dates don't coincide because they both want to be at each other's wedding," a source says. "It's turned into a bit of a joke between them over who's going to send out save-the-date cards first."



METRO WORLD NEWS

Twitter abuzz over Nelson appearance

HEAR THAT? IT'S THE SOUND OF YOUR BREAKFAST CLUB FANTASY DYING Who stole the show during the touching tribute to late director John Hughes at Sunday's Academy Awards? Judd Nelson, 50, usmagazine.com reports.

Fans of Hughes' '80s teen comedy classics were thrilled to see Molly Ringwald, Matthew Broderick, Anthony Michael Hall and Jon Cryer reunite to remember Hughes. But Nelson's shocking appearance inspired hundreds to instantly Tweet their surprise.

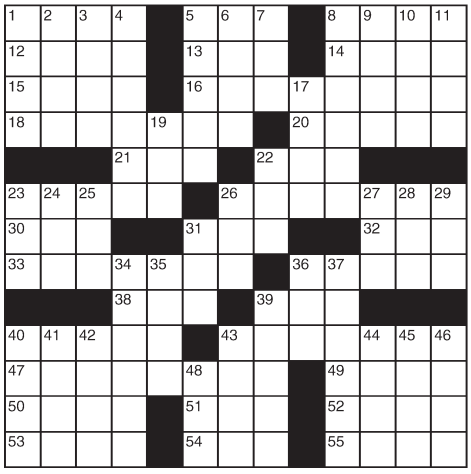
METRO WORLD NEWS

Today Flurries -2 C / -7 C
Wednesday Partly cloudy 3 C / -9 C
Friday Partly cloudy 7 C / -7 C

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist – Breakfast Television
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta." **WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.**

Take Five



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	8	2	1		5			3
		9	6	2	3			
	4		7					
		7				3	1	2
1	5	4				6		
					7		6	
			2	6	8	1		
4			9		1	8	2	

ACROSS

1 Laurel or Musial
5 Spring month
8 Rolling stone's lack
12 Novice
13 Id counterpart
14 Killer whale
15 Related (to)
16 World War I infantryman
18 Warning signal
20 Sail supports
21 Have a bug
22 NASA deviation
23 Cheer up
26 Fool
30 Bill's co-adventurer
31 Toast topper
32 Ultra-modernist
33 Reliable source of income
36 Birth-related
38 A billion years
39 Triumphed
40 Pound fraction
43 Glossy coating
47 "Is it bigger than a —?"
49 Neighborhood
50 Brewer's oven
51 Hearty quaff
52 Oodles
53 Otherwise
54 Chaps
55 Break suddenly

DOWN

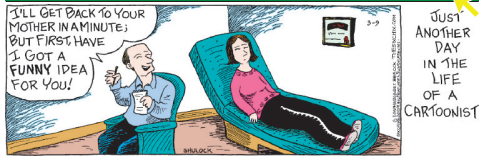
1 Luminary
2 Youngster
3 Desert-like
4 Low-calorie, maybe
5 Hero's award
6 Very enthusiastic
7 Thee
8 Hudson River feeder
9 Spheres
10 Highlander
11 Emulates Simon?
17 2008 TARP recipient
19 Big fib
22 Thanksgiving veggie
23 "Yada, yada, yada" (Abbr.)
24 Meadow
25 Billboards
26 Mandible
27 Pismire
28 Vast expanse
29 Scale member
31 Stewart or Voight
34 Underworld goddess
35 Unisex, as dorms
36 Neither mate
37 Chronicles
39 Lustrously smooth
40 Reed instrument
41 Europe/Asia border river
42 Capone foe
43 Field mouse
44 Press
45 — good example
46 Padlock holder
48 Emeril's outcry

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

4	3	6	7	5	8	9	1	2
7	5	9	1	2	3	6	8	4
8	2	1	9	6	4	3	7	5
5	6	2	3	8	1	7	4	9
9	8	3	4	7	6	2	5	1
1	4	7	5	9	2	8	3	6
2	7	5	8	4	9	1	6	3
6	1	4	2	3	7	5	9	8
3	9	8	6	1	5	4	2	7

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day

Caramelized Onion and Ale Soup with Beef Ribbons

INGREDIENTS:

2 tbsp butter
2 tbsp olive oil
500 g onions, thinly sliced
2 tsp white sugar
300 g tenderloin steak, cut into 3/4-in thick slices
1 garlic clove, crushed
1 cup brown ale
1 bay leaf
3 cups beef stock
2 tbsp chopped fresh parsley

METHOD:

1. In large, heavy-based pot, heat butter and 1 1/2 tbsp oil, then stir in onions and sugar. Cover pot with lid and cook, stirring occasionally, over medium heat, 10 minutes. Remove lid, turn up heat and cook, stirring frequently, until onions are softened and golden brown.
2. Meanwhile, heat frying pan until very hot. Brush steak slices with remaining oil and season lightly. Fry about 3 minutes per side, turning once, until golden brown but still pink inside. Remove from heat and cover with sheet of foil.
3. Add garlic, ale and bay leaf to onions. Bring to boil, then simmer, uncovered, 5 minutes. Add stock, season, then return to boil.
4. Slice steak pieces into thin ribbon strips, adding juices to soup. Discard bay leaf. Ladle soup into wide bowls and place meat strips in centre of each. Sprinkle with parsley and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You will find yourself in a minority of one today, but it won't worry you a bit. You are used to opposing the status quo.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
It would appear that you have been through your current situation, in one guise or another, before, so you should know what you have to do.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Anything that ties you down to a set routine must be avoided. Mars in Leo is a restless influence, so there is no point trying to stay in one place.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Most likely you will find yourself in the middle of some sort of conflict today and tomorrow. Stay calm and use logic to make your point.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
This is one of the most important times of the year for you as Mars is about to move in your favor again. Don't get carried away.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You may be tempted to hit back at those who are giving you a hard time but why run the risk of alienating people whose help you may need?

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You will have to defend your beliefs against someone who thinks they know better than you. It should not be too hard to prove them wrong.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You cannot convince others to see things your way – the more you try the more they will delight in taking the opposing view.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You will have fun today but, for some reason, you will feel guilty. Maybe it's because you don't think you deserve to enjoy the good things. Rubbish!

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Certain emotions may be difficult to deal with but you will have to face up to what is causing you grief.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Opposites attract and someone who is as different to you as it is possible to get will have a major impact on your life.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Stick to routine ways of doing things, even if some people criticize you for being old-fashioned.

This day in history

1841 – The U.S. Supreme Court rules that captive Africans who had seized control of the ship carrying them had been taken into slavery illegally.
1933 – Great Depression: President Franklin D. Roosevelt submits the Emergency Banking Act to the Congress, the first of his New Deal policies.
1991 – Massive demonstrations are held against Slobodan Milošević in Belgrade. Two people are killed and tanks are in the streets.
1997 – Comet Hale-Bopp: Observers in China, Mongolia and eastern Siberia are treated to a rare double feature as an eclipse permits Hale-Bopp to be seen during the day. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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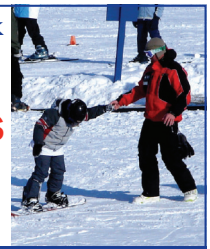

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Gran Bahia Principe Jamaica • 4 1/2★
All-Inclusive • Junior suite
Mar. 22 • 1 wk.
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$949
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MEXICO

Puerto Vallarta / Riviera Nayarit
Plaza Pelicanos • 3★
All-Inclusive
Club section standard rm.
Mar. 20 • 1 wk.
$579
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $271

Ixtapa / Zihuatanejo
NK Krystal Ixtapa • 3 1/2★
All-Inclusive • Deluxe rm.
Mar. 20 • 1 wk.
$959
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $273

HAWAII

Honolulu
Ohana Waikiki West • 3★
Aloha rate - Run of the house
Apr. 11 • 1 wk.
$699
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $139

CUBA

Santa Clara
Meliá Las Dunas • 4★
All-Inclusive • Standard rm.
Mar. 17 • 1 wk.
$689
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $218

Occidental Royal Hideaway Ensenachos • 5★
All-Inclusive
Supersaver spa rm.[1]
Mar. 17 • 1 wk.
$899
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $218

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Punta Cana
Occidental Grand Punta Cana • 4★
All-Inclusive • Junior suite
Mar. 16 & 23 • 1 wk.
$889
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $302

DEAL to EUROPE

Paris via Montreal
All Seasons Paris Gare de l'Est • 3★
Breakfast • Standard rm.
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Complimentary Paris city tour
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+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $486

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